WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

County Courthouse • 842 West King Street Boone, North Carolina 28607

NOVEMBER 10, 2026

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 3, 2026
4. DIRECTOR`S UPDATE
5. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND TABULATION OF PROVISIONAL BALLOTS
6. ADJOURNMENT

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County Board of Elections

The Watauga County Board of Elections met on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., in the County Administration Building at 814 West King Street, Boone, NC 28607. Board Members in attendance were Chairman Perry Yates, Members Aaron Miller, Elaine Rothenberg and Secretary Terry Cirone. Also attending: Elections Director Matt Snyder, Deputy Director Donna Houck, Elections Specialist Brad Henderson and County Attorney Nathan Miller.

NOVEMBER 10, 2026

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER
   Chairman Yates called the meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE
   All present pledged allegiance to the flag.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 3, 2026
   Member Miller moved to approve the minutes from the November 3, 2026, meeting which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

4. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE
   Director Snyder reported that yesterday, Monday, November 9, a Post Election audit, which is basically a hand to eye recount, was held for two (2) precincts, Shawneehaw precinct on Election Day and Deep Gap site, early voting. This was performed by two (2) bi-partisan teams. The hand-to-eye counts matched the machine tabulator tapes.
   He also reported that there need to be two (2) Board challenges to votes. The first involves a voter who voted absentee in Watauga but then early voted in Ashe County. We will remove the voted ballot here in Watauga. The second involves a spoiled ballot that was mistakenly tabulated. Secretary Cirone made a motion to challenge on the first, seconded by Member Miller. Secretary Cirone made a motion to challenge on the second, seconded by Member Miller. 4-0 vote.

5. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF PROVISIONAL BALLOTS
   Director Snyder then briefly explained the procedure for voting on Provisional Ballots. Staff has previously reviewed the Provisional Ballots and made recommendations on their approval/non approval, but the BOE members can vote regardless of the recommendations. The Provisional Ballots are separated into categories based on the reason for their being provisional. When large groups of Provisional Ballots are reviewed, they can be voted on by the Board as slate.

The Board then began the process of reviewing the ballots. The first group reviewed was under the category DL/SSN which included voters flagged under the statewide ballot repair project. There were twelve (12) provisional ballots in this category. Member Rothenberg made a motion to approve the twelve (12) provisional ballots which was seconded by Member Miller. The motion passed 4-0.

The next group reviewed was the NO ID Provided-Exception-Reasonable Impediment which had six (6) provisional ballots. Members first reviewed the ID Exception forms on election night, and approved all six (6). Member Miller made a motion to approve these six (6) provisional ballots which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. The motion passed 4-0.

The next group reviewed was the ID Not Provided-Exception-Religious Objection which had one (1) ballot. Members reviewed the ID Exception form and Secretary Cirone noted that the voter had appeared to have purposefully crossed out the part of the religious objection section (initialed it) that states "religious objection to having their photograph taken. After a brief discussion with the County Attorney Secretary Cirone made a motion to not approve the ID exception form which was seconded by Member Miller. The motion passed 4-0. By not approving the exception form the provisional ballot by extension was not approved.

The next group reviewed was the ID Not Provided-No Exception Form/Return with ID which had thirteen (13) provisional ballots. Director Snyder informed the Board that six (6) voters had returned to the BOE office with a Photo ID and that seven (7) voters had not returned. Member Miller made a motion to approve the Provisional Ballots of the six (6) voters who had provided photo IDs and to not approved the Provisional Ballots of the seven (7) voters who had not provided photo IDs which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. The motion passed 4-0.

The next group reviewed was the Jurisdictional Dispute which had one ballot. Director Snyder reported that the voter had self-reported that they had moved out of the county more than thirty (30) days before Election Day. Member Miller made a motion to not approve the Provisional Ballot which was seconded by member Rothenberg. The motion passed 4-0.

The next group reviewed was the No Record of Registration, which had a total of seventy-five (75) provisional ballots. After review by staff the voters of seventy-two of these ballots were either ineligible to vote, active in other NC counties other than Watauga or registered to vote in Watauga County after the February 6, 2026, registration cutoff date. Member Miller made a motion to not approve seventy-two of Provisional Ballots which did not have the required proper registration and Member Rothenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Three (3) of the Provisional Ballots in this category were determined to have voters registered in Watauga County. Member Miller made a motion to approve these three Provisional Ballots which was seconded by Secretary Cirone. The motion passed 4-0.

The next group reviewed was the Previously Removed which had seven (7) provisional ballots. Two of the provisional ballots had voters that were either ineligible to vote in Watauga County or not registered. Member Rothenberg made a motion not to approve those two (2) Provisional Ballots which was seconded by Member Miller. The Motion passed 4-0. Five (5) of the Provisional Ballots had voters who had been removed from the voter rolls after being inactive for two (2) federal elections but had no record of having established residency outside of Watauga County. Secretary Cirone made a motion to approve those Provisional Ballots that was seconded by Member Miller. The motion passed 4-0.

The next group reviewed was Unrecognized Address (Geocode Issue) which had eleven (11) ballots. Upon investigation by staff three (3) of those Provisional Ballots involved voters not registered in Watauga County. Member Miller made a motion not to approve those three (3) ballots which was seconded by Secretary Cirone. The motion passed 4-0. The other eight (8) ballots were established to belong to voters registered in Watauga County. Member Miller made a motion to approve those Provisional Ballots which was seconded by Secretary Cirone. and recommends that this provisional ballot be approved. The motion passed 4-0.

The next group reviewed was the Unreported Move category which had six (6) ballots. Member Miller made a motion to approve three (3) of the provisional ballots, which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. The motion passed 4-0. Member Miller then made a motion of not approve three (3) of the provisional ballots for reasons noted by staff, which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. Motion passed 4-0.

The next group was the Voter Already Voted which had two (2) ballots. Member Rothenberg made a motion to approve these two (2) provisional ballots, seconded by member Miller for reasons of poll worker error. Motion passed 4-0.

The Board then reviewed the group of Provisional Ballots in the category Incorrect or Out of Precinct which were the majority of the Provisional Ballots. Then, as Director Snyder had explained earlier in the meeting those ballots were reviewed and then a ballot re-marked using the correct ballot style for the voter's correct precinct and allowing votes only in the races that they were eligible to vote in. Member Miller then made a motion to approve the 210 provisional ballots, which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. Motion passed 4-0. After the ballots were re-marked, they were placed in the DS300.

There was a total of 344 Provisional Ballots cast. 255 were approved, and eighty-nine (89) were not approved. After all the ballots were submitted, the report tapes were printed out and signed by the BOE Members as required.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Member Rothenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Member Miller. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the BOE is November 13th, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

[redacted]
Perry Yates, Chairman

[redacted]
Terry Cirone, Secretary

[redacted]
Leta Councill, Member

[redacted]
Aaron Miller, Member

[redacted]
Elaine Rothenberg, Member

[redacted]
Matthew Snyder, Director

COUNTY: WATAUGA

PROVISIONAL VOTERS STATISTICS BY VOTING REASONS

ELECTION: 11/03/2026 - 11/03/2026 GENERAL

Provisional Voting Reason	Vote Count	Reason (Not Approved or Partial)	Total Ballots
DL/SSN PROVISIONAL			
	APPROVED		12
		Provisional Voting Reason Total:	**12**
ID NOT PROVIDED - EXCEPTION -REASONABLE IMPEDIMENT			
	APPROVED		6
		Provisional Voting Reason Total:	**6**
ID NOT PROVIDED - EXCEPTION -RELIGIOUS OBJECTION			
	PENDING		1
		Provisional Voting Reason Total:	**1**
ID NOT PROVIDED - NO EXCEPTION FORM/RETURN WITH ID			
	PENDING		7
	APPROVED		6
		Provisional Voting Reason Total:	**13**
INCORRECT PRECINCT			
	PARTIAL	VOTING OUT OF PRECINCT	210
		Provisional Voting Reason Total:	**210**
JURISDICTION DISPUTE			
	NOT APPROVED	MOVED OUT OF COUNTY MORE THAN 30 DAYS	1
		Provisional Voting Reason Total:	**1**
NO RECORD OF REGISTRATION			
	NOT APPROVED	INELIGIBLE TO VOTE	15
	NOT APPROVED	NOT REGISTERED	50
	NOT APPROVED	REGISTRATION AFTER DEADLINE	2
	NOT APPROVED	REMOVED	5
	APPROVED		3
		Provisional Voting Reason Total:	**75**
PREVIOUSLY REMOVED			
	NOT APPROVED	INELIGIBLE TO VOTE	1
	NOT APPROVED	REMOVED	1
	APPROVED		5
		Provisional Voting Reason Total:	**7**
UNRECOGNIZED ADDRESS (GEOCODE ISSUE)			
	NOT APPROVED	NOT REGISTERED	3

Provisional Voting Reason	Vote Count	Reason (Not Approved or Partial)	Total Ballots
	APPROVED		8
		Provisional Voting Reason Total:	**11**
UNREPORTED MOVE			
	PARTIAL	VOTING OUT OF PRECINCT	1
	NOT APPROVED	INELIGIBLE TO VOTE	2
	NOT APPROVED	VOTING OUT OF PRECINCT	1
	APPROVED		2
		Provisional Voting Reason Total:	**6**
VOTER ALREADY VOTED			
	APPROVED		2
		Provisional Voting Reason Total:	**2**
		Grand Total:	**344**

COUNTY: WATAUGA

PROVISIONAL VOTERS STATISTICS BY RESULT

ELECTION: 11/03/2026 - 11/03/2026 GENERAL

Vote Count	Total
PENDING	8
NOT APPROVED	81
PARTIAL	211
APPROVED	44
Grand Total:	344

255 Approved
89 Not Approved
344 Total